TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 12, 1983 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 7 totaled an estimated 15.9 billion ton-miles, 2.7 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 18 weeks of 1983 was an estimated 273.0 billion ton-miles, 5.4 percent below the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 7 totaled 364,540 cars, 4.5 percent below 1982, and 1.8 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 8.6 percent in the East, 3.0 percent in the South and 2.5 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1982, 15 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, loadings of lumber and wood products were up 23.9 percent, metallic ores posted a gain of 8.0 percent, and stone, clay and glass products increased by 6.7 percent. Thirteen of the 21 groups were down from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended April 30 totaled 45,908 cars, up 21.9 percent from the corresponding week of 1982, and 78,971 trailers and/or containers, 14.6 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 17 weeks of the year was 709,412 cars, 16.1 percent higher than last year, and 1,213,568 trailers and/or containers, up 12.1 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/7/83:

	Loadings in Week ended May 7, 1983		Change from Corresponding Week 1982			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	21,813	D	1,928	8.1	I	735	3.5
Other farm products	3,744	D	373	9.1	D	53	1.4
Metallic ores	20,613	I	1,522	8.0	D	6	0.0
Coal	100,604	D	17,485	14.8	I	2,204	2.2
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,533	I	382	3.8	I	764	7.8
Nonmetallic minerals	10,329	D	146	1.4	D	1,443	12.3
Grain mill products	11,298	D	294	2.5	I	13	0.1
Food and kindred products	11,802	D	1,494	11.2	D	425	3.5
Primary forest products	15,384	D	621	3.9	D	16	0.1
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,240	I	1,396	23.9	D	497	6.4
Pulp, paper and allied products	15,128	D	1,547	9.3	D	351	2.3
Chemicals and allied products	23,730	D	608	2.5	D	1,026	4.1
Petroleum products	4,697	D	54	1.1	D	471	9.1
Stone, clay and glass products	10,712	I	668	6.7	I	78	0.7
Coke	4,858	D	136	2.7	I	3	0.1
Metals and products	8,018	D	2,296	22.3	D	1,748	17.9
Motor vehicles and equipment	17,906	I	822	4.8	I	109	0.6
Waste and scrap materials	8,191	D	316	3.7	D	501	5.8
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	8,317	D	479	5.4	D	257	3.0
All other carloads	49,369	I	7,061	16.7	D	4,007	7.5
LCL traffic	254	D	1,314	83.8	I	27	11.9
Total Cars Loaded	364,540	D	17,240	4.5	D	6,868	1.8
Corresponding week of 1982	381,780						

	1983	1982	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (18 weeks)	6,271,981	6,847,903	D 8.4
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
17 weeks ended April 30	257.1	272.3	D 5.6
Week ended May 7	15.9	16.3	D 2.7
18 weeks cumulative	273.0	288.6	D 5.4

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